

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 205294  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 HA-05 SAS-02  
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
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USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 205294

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 14 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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PAGE 02 STATE 205294

1. WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THAT NEW ASSOCIATED PRESS-NBC  
NEWS POLL SHOWS THAT AMERICANS AGREE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER  
THAT SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT DISRUPT  
NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW SALT AGREEMENT. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR  
NEW SALT AGREEMENT HAS INCREASED IN RECENT WEEKS DESPITE  
RECENT SOVIET PROSECUTIONS OF DISSIDENTS AND CONTINUING  
SUSPICION ABOUT USSR'S GOOD FAITH IN ABIDING BY AGREEMENTS,

ACCORDING TO POLL. WASHINGTON POST SAID AP-NBC NEWS POLL REPORTED THAT AMONG THOSE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS, THREE-FOURTHS AGREED WITH PRESIDENT THAT SALT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE DESPITE SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID THERE ARE "TWO PREOCCUPYING ISSUES INSIDE U.S. DIPLOMATIC-SECURITY BUREAUCRACY. ONE IS DIRECTION SOVIET POLICY WILL TAKE. OTHER IS FUTURE COURSE OF AMERICAN STRATEGY AND TACTICS." MARDER SAID RECURRING PHRASES IN UPPER ECHELON OF CARTER ADMINIS-

TRATION HIERARCHY ARE THAT PRESIDENT WILL "PICK AND CHOOSE" AMONG HIS ADVISERS ON ACTIONS HE WILL TAKE, AND THAT HE IS "NOT LOCKED IN" TO ANY SINGLE "LINE." THIS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED, INSIDERS CAUTION, BECAUSE OF CARTER'S DECISION TO REAFFIRM PRIMACY OF VANCE RATHER THAN BRZEZINSKI AS HIS CHIEF CO-SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN POLICY, MARDER REPORTED. OVER LAST TWO MONTHS, CARTER ACCEPTED MOST OFTEN -- "BUT NOT TOTALLY -- MORE MODERATE RESPONSES TO SOVIET ACTIONS ADVOCATED BY VANCE AND HIS ASSOCIATES OVER STIFFER, MORE MILLITANT RIPOSTES CHAMPIONED BY BRZEZINSKI AND HIS NSC STAFF," MARDER EXPLAINED. "BUT THIS OFFERS FAR LESS ASSURANCES OF AN IMMUTABLE PATTERN, BOTH SIDES SAY IN PRIVATE." MARDER NOTED THAT IN WEEKS AHEAD, CARTER MUST MAKE DECISIONS ON INSTRUCTIONS VANCE WILL CARRY INTO NEXT ROUND

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PAGE 03 STATE 205294

OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GROMYKO. "AT SAME TIME, IN PREPARATION FOR NEW U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET, CARTER FACES MAJOR DECISIONS ON WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND U.S. MILITARY STRATEGY, SOME OF WHICH OVERLAP SIGNIFICANTLY WITH NUCLEAR QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED WITH SOVIET UNION. IT HAS SERVED SOVIET PURPOSES, AND SO FAR PREVAILING MODERATE APPROACH INSIDE ADMINISTRATION, TO 'INSULATE' U.S.-SOVIET ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS FROM OUTSIDE TENSIONS." MARDER SAID ADMINISTRATION STRATEGISTS, ASSESSING U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, LISTED SOVIET MBFR PROPOSALS AND PROGRESS IN HELSINKI TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AS BEING ON MARGINAL, POSITIVE SIDE OF ACCOUNTING. "IT IS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT THAT U.S.-SOVIET OUTLOOK CONTINUES TO BE ESPECIALLY GRIM AND TENSE, IN INCREASINGLY POLITICALLY VOLATILE CLIMATE OF APPROACHING AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS," MARDER SAID.

3. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT "THOUGH RECRIMINATIONS CONTINUE, SOME ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BELIEVE WORST MAY BE PAST IN CURRENT BLEAK PHASE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IF SO, WAY COULD CLEAR FOR MEASURED EXCHANGES DURING NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS AND FOR COMPLETION OF NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY BY END OF YEAR. THAT IS ADMITTEDLY

POLITICAL JUDGMENT, UNSUPPORTED BY PUBLIC EVIDENCE, OF THOSE WHO MAKE IT." TREWHITT SAID ONE ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST EMPHASIZED SOVIET GOVERNMENT CANNOT HAVE OVERLOOKED CARTER'S RECENT RESTRAINT OF BRZEZINSKI. "MR. CARTER'S WILLINGNESS TO TURN OTHER CHEEK HAS INCREASED CRITICISM FROM HIS POLITICAL RIGHT, TREWHITT SAID. THOSE WHO QUESTION HIS MANAGEMENT OF SOVIET RELATIONS MOST VOCIFEROUSLY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTS, SUCH AS ARREST OF FRANCIS JAY CRAWFORD, BUT MORE ABOUT STRATEGIC BALANCE AND SOVIET EXPANSIONISM, TREWHITT CONTINUED. HE SAID 148-MEMBER CONGRESSIONAL COALITION FOR PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH PRESENTED "FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE TO PENDING STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY

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PAGE 04 STATE 205294

UNLESS SOVIET BEHAVIOR IMPROVES." TREWHITT SAID THERE IS CONSENSUS IN WASHINGTON THAT SENATE WOULD NOT RATIFY SALT TREATY -- "ANY SALT TREATY -- IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE. NO ONE IS CERTAIN THAT TREATY IS EVEN ATTAINABLE. SOME ISSUES OF STRATEGIC SUBSTANCES ARE YET TO BE NEGOTIATED. BUT IN BELIEF THAT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE WILL IMPROVE, ADMINISTRATION HAS SET OUT TO IMPROVE AT LEAST DOMESTIC PROSPECTS FOR TREATY. IT ALREADY HAS HELD ONE FORUM, PRESENTING BOTH SIDES OF TREATY ARGUMENT, FOR REGIONAL LEADERS IN NEW ENGLAND. OTHERS ARE PLANNED. 'ON MERITS ALONE, I BELIEVE WE COULD GET TREATY RATIFIED,' SAYS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. 'IT WOULD NOT BE EASY. BUT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE IF RUSSIANS DON'T SEE THEIR OWN INTEREST. WE'LL TRY TO MAKE THEM SEE IT, BUT IT REALLY IS UP TO THEM.'"

4. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL QUOTED ACDA DIRECTOR PAUL WARNKE AS SAYING "I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS IN SALT AGREEMENT DURING RATIFICATION PROCESS." IN RECENT INTERVIEW, WARNKE TOLD UPI "WE WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT IF SOVIETS, IN THEIR RATIFICATION PROCESS, TRIED TO ALTER SOME OF BASIC PROVISIONS. AND I FEEL QUITE SURE SOVIETS WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT EITHER." UPI SAID ADMINISTRATION IS CAUTIOUSLY HOLDING OPEN POSSIBILITY PACT WILL BE CAST AS AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT -- FOR WHICH MAJORITY APPROVAL IN HOUSE AND SENATE WOULD BE REQUESTED -- RATHER THAN TREATY. "TREATIES REQUIRE TWO-THIRDS SENATE APPROVAL, DIFFICULT MARGIN TO ACHIEVE ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE," UPI NOTED. "WARNKE, HOWEVER, SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS UNLIKELY SENATE WOULD TRY TO MODIFY AGREEMENT. 'AFTER ALL, THESE WILL BE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HAMMERED OUT IN OVER SIX YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS,' HE SAID." CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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